



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
Eastern District of Wisconsin*

517 East Wisconsin Avenue

414 / 297-1700

Milwaukee, WI 53202

TTY 414 / 297-1088

PRESS RELEASE

October 21, 2008

Information Pertaining to November Election

United States Attorney Steven M. Biskupic announced today that Assistant United States Attorney Richard G. Frohling, who is the Deputy Criminal Chief, in the Eastern District of Wisconsin, will lead the efforts of his office in the connection with the Justice Department's nationwide Election Day Program for the upcoming November 4, 2008 elections. AUSA Frohling has been appointed to serve as the District Election Officer for the Eastern District of Wisconsin, and in that capacity is responsible for overseeing the District's handling of complaints of election fraud and voting rights abuses in consultation with Justice Department Headquarters.

On October 8, 2002, then Attorney General John Ashcroft established a Department-wide Ballot Access and Voting Integrity Initiative. The goals of this Initiative are to increase the Department's ability to deter election fraud and discrimination at the polls and to prosecute these offenses whenever and wherever they occur – to make voting easier and cheating harder. Both goals are equally important. It is imperative that in pursuing voter integrity, ballot access is not in any way diminished or harmed. The Department's long-standing Election Day Program furthers the goals of the Initiative. The Program also is intended to ensure public confidence in the integrity of the election process by providing local points of contact within the Department where the public can report possible election fraud and voting rights violations while the polls are open on election day. The franchise is the cornerstone of American democracy. We all must ensure that those who are entitled to the franchise exercise it, while those who seek to corrupt it are brought to justice.

In order to respond to complaints of election fraud or voting rights abuses on November 4, 2008, and to ensure that such complaints are directed to the appropriate authorities, USA Biskupic has stated that AUSA Frohling and AUSA Gregory J. Haanstad will be on duty while the polls are open and throughout the election process. Until 5 p.m., they can be reached by the public at (414) 297-1700. After 5 p.m., until the polls close, they can be reached at (414) 297-4528. The FBI also will have special agents available to receive allegations of election fraud, voter intimidation, voter suppression, and other election abuses. The FBI can be reached by the public at (414) 276-4684.

Complaints about ballot access problems or discrimination can be made to the Civil Rights Division's Voting Section in Washington, DC at 1-800-253-3931 or (202) 307-2767. Where voter intimidation or suppression tactics target voters on the basis of race, color, religion, or national origin, please contact the Civil Rights Division's Criminal Section at (202) 514-3204.

In explaining his office's efforts, United States Attorney Biskupic said, "Election fraud and voting rights abuses dilute the worth of votes honestly cast. They also corrupt the essence of our representative form of government. As crimes against both the individual and the government, they will be dealt with promptly and aggressively." United States Attorney Biskupic encouraged anyone who may have specific information suggesting electoral corruption or voting rights abuses to report that information to his office, the FBI, or the Civil Rights Division.

#

For additional information contact:

Deputy Criminal Chief Richard Frohling
Public Information Officer Dean Puschnig
414-297-1700